

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SINGAP 01092 160856Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 USIA-15 /029 W
-----160858Z 054873 /21

P 160813Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO AMCONSUL MEDAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SECSTATE WASHDC 7326

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1092

TOKYO FOR RPO; STATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJ: GUITARIST BARNEY KESSEL

1. KESSEL'S ONE NIGHT STAND AT THE 550-SEAT DBS AUDITORIUM CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD: TERRIFIC. PLAYING BEFORE A PACKED HALL (MANY WERE TURNED AWAY AT THE DOOR) HE ENTHRALLED THE AUDIENCE WITH SOME BEAUTIFUL PIECES PLAYED EXQUISITELY AND WITH MUCH FEELING. PART OF THE PROGRAM WAS DEVOTED TO UP-TEMPO NUMBERS PLAYED WITH LOCAL BASS AND DRUM ACCOMPANIMENT AND THE COMBINED EFFORT WAS VERY GOOD. THEN, PLAYING ALONE, HE CHANGED THE MOOD COMPLETELY. HE INTRODUCES MOST OF HIS NUMBERS AND WITH A FEW JOKES HERE AND THERE SETS THE MOOD. HIS CHOICE OF MUSIC WAS EXCELLENT SINCE MOST SONGS WERE KNOWN BY THE AUDIENCE. AUDIENCE REACTION WAS EXCELLENT AND AFTER SHOWTIME, THERE WERE HORDES OF FANS BACKSTAGE FOR AUTOGRAPHS AND TIPS ON PLAYING THE GUITAR.

2. KESSEL IS RELAXED, EASY TO WORK WITH AND UTTERLY PROFESSIONAL WITH NO HANG-UPS ABOUT BEING A 'STAR'. IF POST PLANS FOR LOCAL ACCOMPANIMENT AT CONCERTS, ENSURE THAT ALL EQUIPMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 01092 160856Z

READY AND LOCAL MUSICIANS PRESENT AT THE ARRANGED REHEARSAL TIME. KESSEL FINDS YAMAHA AMPS BY AND LARGE UNSUITABLE. TRY FOR FENDER OR AMPEX.

3. FOR STATE AND RPO: IN MANY WAYS THIS IS IDEAL CULTURAL PRESENTATION FOR SINGAPORE. GUITAR IS VERY POPULAR HERE AND OUTSTANDING GUITARISTS LIKE KESSEL CAN BE COUNTED ON TO DRAW

A GOOD AUDIENCE. KESSEL'S VISIT WAS HOWEVER TOO SHORT. HE HAD
A LOT TO SHARE AND WE COULD HAVE EASILY PROGRAMMED HIM FOR THREE
FULL DAYS WITH MORE CONCERTS, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS WITH GUITAR
STUDENTS AND MUSICIANS. WE WILL WELCOME OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
KESSEL AGAIN ANYTIME. HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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